

CLAIMS

1. A container for the preservation and serving of a food product, said container comprising a base tray, an upwardly extending dome-shaped cover positionable over said tray to define a product receiving chamber, a vent opening in said cover, and a vent panel mountable to said cover over said vent opening for control of atmospheric conditions within said chamber relative to ambient conditions, said vent opening being defined by a peripheral rim formed by the surrounding cover, said vent panel having a peripheral edge portion coextensive with said opening rim, and cooperating means on said panel edge portion and said rim for releasably locking said panel to said cover with said panel overlying and closing said opening.

2. The container of claim 1 wherein said vent panel is perforated with multiple holes over substantially the full extent of said panel to define a venting area, said venting area being coextensive with a substantial area of said cover.

3. The container of claim 2 including a foil of predetermined vapor permeability fixed to said panel in overlying relation to and coextensive with said venting area for a venting of vapors from said chamber to the ambient atmosphere.

4. The container of claim 3 wherein said foil is waterproof and precludes ingress of ambient moisture into said chamber.

5. The container of claim 4 wherein said means for releasably locking said panel to said cover comprises a depending locking ring on said vent panel inward of said peripheral edge portion and surrounding said perforated venting area, said locking ring being receivable inward through said vent opening adjacent said opening rim, said locking ring including an undercut face thereon receiving a portion of said rim for a snap locking thereto.

6. The container of claim 5 wherein said cover, adjacent said opening rim, is downwardly offset relative to adjacent portions of said cover and defines a peripheral seat for receiving the peripheral edge portion of said vent panel.

7. The container of claim 6 wherein a portion of said cover along a minor extent of said peripheral rim is inwardly offset to define a finger-accommodating recess underlying a section of the peripheral edge portion of the mounted vent panel for selective upward removal of said vent panel from the vent opening.

8. The container of claim 1 wherein a portion of said cover along a minor extent of said peripheral rim is inwardly offset to define a finger-accommodation recess underlying a section of the peripheral edge portion of the mounted vent panel for selective upward removal of said vent panel from the vent opening.

9. The container of claim 1 wherein said means for releasably locking said panel to said cover comprises a depending locking ring on said vent panel inward of said peripheral edge portion, said locking ring being receivable inward through said vent opening adjacent said opening rim, said locking ring including an undercut face thereon receiving a portion of said rim for a snap locking thereto, said vent panel being removable from said cover.

10. The container of claim 9 wherein said cover, adjacent said opening forming rim, is downwardly offset relative to adjacent portions of said cover and defines a peripheral seat for receiving the peripheral edge portion of said vent panel.

11. The container of claim 10 wherein said vent panel follows and conforms to the contour of the dome-shaped cover.

12. The container of claim 11 wherein a portion of said cover along a minor extent of said peripheral rim is inwardly offset to define a finger-accommodating recess underlying a section of the peripheral edge portion of the mounted vent panel for selective upward removal of said vent panel from the vent opening.

13. The container of claim 11 wherein said tray comprises a planar top serving surface with a depending peripheral flange defining a support for said top surface, and an outwardly projecting ledge peripherally about said depending flange at an intermediate height along the vertical extent thereof, said cover having a lower edge portion surrounding and enclosing said tray top surface and seating on said ledge.

14. The container of claim 1 wherein said tray comprises a planar top serving surface with a depending peripheral flange defining a support for said top surface, and an outwardly projecting ledge peripherally about said depending flange at an intermediate height along the vertical extent thereof, said cover having a lower edge portion surrounding and enclosing said tray top surface and seating on said ledge.

15. The container of claim 14 wherein said vent panel is perforated with multiple holes over substantially the full

extent of said panel to define a venting area, said venting area being coextensive with a substantial area of said cover.

16. The container of claim 15 including a foil of predetermined vapor permeability bonded to said panel in overlying relation to and coextensive with said venting area for a venting of vapors from said chamber to the ambient atmosphere.

17. A cheese server comprising a tray having a planar top serving surface, an upwardly domed and downwardly open cover engaged with said tray and overlying and enclosing said tray top surface, said cover having a vent opening defined therein in upwardly spaced and generally parallel overlying relation to the top surface of said tray, a vent panel overlying and enclosing said opening, and means for releasably locking said vent panel to said cover and over said opening.

18. The cheese server of claim 17 wherein said vent panel is waterproof and vapor permeable, and of predetermined vapor permeability.

19. The cheese server of claim 18 wherein said vent panel defines an area equal to a substantial portion of the area of the planar top surface of the tray.

20. A vent panel removably mountable within and over an opening in a container, said vent panel being substantially rigid and perforated with multiple openings defined therethrough, and a foil overlying and closing said openings, said foil being waterproof and having a predetermined vapor permeability, said vent panel including integral means for mounting said panel to a container.